

## LEADERSHIP THEME OF GRADE 5 SIYUM

Forty-four students formally ended their Elementary School careers Monday at the second Maimonides School fifth grade *siyum*.

Highlight of the *siyum* were presentations by eight teams of fifth graders on leaders in Jewish history and the period of the American Revolution. Each team shared the results of its research, supplemented with facts on video. The students also identified values and qualities from the biographies that will be beneficial in Middle School.

Rabbi Dovid Reisman, the fifth graders' *limudei kodesh* teacher, exhorted the children to "never forget you are a Torah Jew. Even as you leave the Maimonides Elementary School, take Maimonides with you." Rabbi Reisman said he always has been impressed by "your desire to grow, your desire to know." Avi Pittleman, Grade 5 general studies teacher, added, "You have demonstrated an uncanny ability to be leaders in so many respects."

Other features of the ceremony included special T-shirts, presentation of fifth grade yearbooks, and expressions of student appreciation to teachers presented by students David Kotler, Hannah Spear and Itay Sternlicht. Elementary School Principal Rabbi David Saltzman and Assistant Principal Reena Slovin handed each fifth grader a diploma.

## SHAKESPEAREAN FINALE TO GRADE EIGHT

The Maimonides School class of 2014 culminated its Middle School experience Monday afternoon with a memorable production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Family members, teachers and friends gathered in Saval Auditorium for the 70-minute presentation.

The play was divided into 12 scenes, including an ending embellished by musical accompaniment and a "light show." Each eighth grader performed in at least one scene. "Most of them memorized not only the lines of Shakespeare but the spirit of the lines," said Jack Fidler, the English teacher who directed the project with his colleague Nancy Wassner.

Mr. Fidler said the grade spent five weeks learning about "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and preparing for the performance. Students spent much of their own time learning their lines, he added. Costumes were wide-ranging, consisting mostly of makeshift togas. The set consisted of cardboard cubes, which were rearranged by the actors into pillars, seats and walls, as the scene dictated.

## SCHOOL NAMES ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

A Brandeis University graduate with teaching and mentoring experience on three continents has been appointed Maimonides School director of admissions. Ariella Brunwasser, who describes herself as "a highly motivated and passionate educator," will succeed Tamara Kesselman, admissions director for the past seven years.

Ms. Brunwasser has served as a dormitory counselor at Midreshet Lindenbaum and a Jewish Service Corps volunteer in Romania for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. She also has worked as a development consultant and foundation programs officer in Jerusalem. For the past two years, she has been teaching third and sixth graders in the Hebrew school at Temple Sinai in Brookline. Ms. Brunwasser, a graduate of Ida Crown Academy in Chicago and a passionate and articulate advocate of day school education, recently received a master of theological studies degree at Harvard Divinity School.

## NEW CURRENT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

The 2010 edition of *Current*, the literary magazine of Maimonides School, has been published, featuring stories, poems, photographs and drawings by 22 students and two teachers. Senior editors of *Current* were Stephanie Guedalia '10 and Lily Wilf '11. Ariella Kasmer-Jacobs '11 served as copy editor. Faculty advisor for the literary magazine is Jonathan Hartt. Copies are available for purchase through the Office of Development at [info@maimonides.org](mailto:info@maimonides.org) or (617) 232-4452, ext. 405, at \$5 each. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the literary magazine.

## SCORES SALUTE PRINCIPALS, MRS. GELLER

More than 150 well-wishers packed Saval Auditorium Monday evening as the community saluted two departing administrators and one retiring teacher. Rabbi Yair Altshuler, Middle and Upper School principal; Ken Weinstein, general studies principal; and Mrs. Tobie Geller, foreign languages teacher, reflected on their careers at Maimonides and thanked students, teachers and parents. Marc and Beth Epstein, co-chairs of the Board of Trustees, presided at the event. Rabbi David Shapiro, rosh yeshiva, introduced the two departing principals. Michael Schockett presented his colleague Mrs. Geller, who is retiring after 25 years at Maimonides. The community presented each with a special gift and guest books replete with messages from hundreds of students, current and former parents and graduates. Rabbi Altshuler is returning to Israel after four years at the helm of Maimonides. Mr. Weinstein, who joined the staff in 2001, is the new principal of Marblehead High School.

## SEVERAL SENIOR ATHLETES RECOGNIZED

Seniors Brad Baskir, Alicia Hanau, Tatiana Hasson and Daniel Lasman received special recognition at Sunday morning's Sports Awards Breakfast. Brad, who lettered in soccer (most valuable player), basketball (coaches' award) and baseball (coaches' award) this school year, was honored as male athlete of the year. Tatiana Hasson, most valuable player in soccer and basketball, was female athlete of the year. Tatiana was basketball captain as a junior; she missed her senior softball season because of injury. Alicia and Daniel were cited as student-athletes of the year. Alicia played soccer and won a most-improved player award in basketball. Daniel, a varsity soccer player, also played first singles on the tennis team.

Other seniors recognized at the event were David Gleizer (most improved, basketball); Miriam Hutton (most improved, basketball); Talia Kesselman (coaches' award, basketball); Esther Petrack (coaches' award, soccer); Jerry Pomeranz (coaches' award, soccer); Stevie Fine (most improved, soccer); Rachel Renz (coaches' award, volleyball); and Aharon Golshirzian (most valuable player, baseball). Eight students were recognized for competing in three varsity sports: Brad, Tatiana and their classmate David, Elan Baskir '11, Yael Pomper '12 and Deena Rosenblatt '12, Tara Hanau '13 and Michal Alge '14.

## CHILD CARE OPPORTUNITY

Sara Silberman, wife of Judaic studies teacher Shmuel Silberman, is looking for work in child care. Please call (617) 783-5729 or write [ssilberman@maimonides.org](mailto:ssilberman@maimonides.org).

## FINAL HAITI TALLY EXCEEDS \$10,000

Students, teachers, families, alumni and friends have donated more than \$10,000 to the agency Yele Haiti for purchase of tents, in a three-month campaign that embraced the entire school community. Yele Haiti provides ongoing support to a community network of 34 tent camps for earthquake survivors. The grassroots movement was established by the musician Wyclef Jean.

Students who were involved by selling flowers, candy, dog tags, and bracelets were Donald Adler, Elan Baskir, Jacob Bergel, Rachel Blaszkowsky, Amir Davidson, Annika Gompers, Rachael Hirsch, Leora Sanieoff, Kayla Seigel, Hannah Spellman, Ariella Sundel, Noah Swartz and Rachel Wechsler. Faculty advisors for this effort were Refael Fadlon, Sara Herst and Mickey Blechner-Nyer. Gann also contributed more than \$1,000 by selling the dog tags.

## MANY STEP UP FOR JAYVEE BASEBALL

A number of different players stepped up for the 2010 Maimonides junior varsity baseball team. Returnees Akiva Geller and Yoni Klausner led the team in batting (.538 and .400, respectively), while Elisha Jacobs, Amitai Samuels, Joseph Solomont and Moshe Zisblatt did a great job covering the infield. "The greatest thing about this team was seeing newcomers who saw little playing time take advantage of their opportunities," said Ari Short '07, who handled the coaching along with fellow Maimonides baseball alumni Joey Sherman '05 and Moshe Wallins '05. Daniel Schwartz was solid behind the plate blocking balls in the dirt. Zach Blitstein and Jake Bergel each sparked rallies with big hits late in the season, and Adam Kramer and Jonathan Michaelson each had great outings on the mound. "JV is a great opportunity to show what kind of baseball player you are, and it's a pleasure to see new faces step up every year," Ari remarked.